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13 July 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director, Intelligence  
FROM: Acting Assistant Director, C & D  
SUBJECT: Damage to 350-26th Street Caused by the  
Heavy Rains of 8 and 9 July

The heavy rains of Friday afternoon and Saturday, 8 and 9 July, resulted in a virtual flooding of several areas of 350-26th Street causing damage and considerable inconvenience and interruption of operation. Areas of the building affected and damage incurred were as follows:

1. Area:

Northeast end of building

Both restrooms and entrance area were covered with about 2 inches of water. The storm sewers were inadequate to carry off the rain water which backed up through drain pipes and plumbing (i.e. water fountain, toilets, etc.)

Damage:

Actual damage was minimized as the OGD Staff, as an emergency measure, blocked the flow of water with boxes of IBM cards to keep it from flowing into the working areas. Some 15,000 IBM cards were destroyed and the restrooms had to be closed.

2. Area:

Microfilm Laboratory (Basement NE end)

Approximately 2 inches of water backed up through supposedly blocked off toilets covering about one-half of the basement working area.

Damage:

Actual damage was slight; however, all microfilm processing operations were suspended as the staff had to be diverted to blocking and mopping up water.

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3. Area:

Intellofax Card File Vault (East side of building)

On Friday afternoon a stopped up drain running through the vault from the roof backed up covering the floor with 2 inches of water. All bottom file drawers had to be removed from some 40 card file cabinets. Logistics Office was notified at approximately 3:30 P.M.

Friday evening the drain backed up once again pouring water all over the floor. The water backed up high enough in the drain to cause it to overflow at the level of the vault ceiling thereby pouring water over all the card files in the south end of the vault and so weakening the ceiling that it fell down on top of the cabinets. Administrative Staff, OGD, was notified at 11:30 P.M. by the Night Security Officer of the condition. The staff of the Machine Division reported to the building and worked until 2:00 A.M. Saturday morning mopping up water and removing all cards which were not already ruined and which were likely to be water soaked.

Public Building Service personnel attempted to clean the clogged drain and by 2:00 A.M. Saturday assured OGD personnel that the situation was remedied and the drain cleared.

Again on Saturday morning the heavy rain backed up the drain causing another minor flooded condition.

Damage:

Approximately 50% of the vault area and parts of the heavy machine room and card punch room were under water. Portions of 100 IBM card trays holding 300,000 punched intellofax cards were soaked. It's impossible at this time to estimate how many of these cards are completely unusable. Every effort is being made to dry the cards by using fans, de-humidifiers, etc. Reproduction of such cards will be costly and time consuming.

At the request of the DD/S, PBS provided emergency repairs over the weekend and have now undertaken permanent repairs.

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cc: DD/S

General Counsel

Att: Mr Pforzheimer